



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Fish Passage Program Accomplishments

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management



Culvert "perching" at road/stream crossings often produces obstructions to fish passage. Perched culverts are found on Federal, State and Tribal lands throughout the midwest. Interagency partnerships are essential in rehabilitating these crossings.

Projects to improve fish passage at road stream crossings can vary in size, complexity and cost, but are all dependent upon effective partnerships.



A small perched culvert on Hardwood Creek, Otsego County, Michigan (left) produced an impoundment that created both a thermal and physical barrier to fish passage. Replacement with a wooden box culvert (right) restored stream flow and fish access for resident fish populations.



Inadequate culvert size at the Tin Shanty Bridge on the Black River in Otsego County, Michigan (left) resulted in flooding that caused sedimentation and perched culverts, which formed barriers to fish passage. Replacement of the culverts with a 28 foot steel span bridge (right), and stabilization of the road have eliminated the fish passage barriers.

Construction of a fishway on Grand Portage Creek on the Grand Portage Reservation in Minnesota (below) opened 3.2 miles of spawning and nursery habitat for coaster brook trout and steelhead. This project will assist in an ongoing program to reintroduce coaster brook trout to the reservation.



Region 3 Fishery Resources Offices in Alpena, MI, Ashland, WI, Columbia, MO, and LaCrosse, WI are implementing the Service's Fish Passage Program through on-the-ground projects for habitat protection, enhancement and restoration. Partnerships with Federal, State and local governments and conservation groups allow us to combine our resources to complete projects.



To assist in recovery of the Threatened Niangua darter, low water crossings and culverts on Greasy Creek (above) and Thomas Creek (below) in Missouri's Niangua River watershed are being replaced with open spanning structures. Structure replacement will allow currently isolated segments of the population to be reconnected throughout approximately 8 miles of stream habitat that is barrier free. The project resulted from a partnership of Federal, State, and county resource agencies.



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